

My name is Michael Geissinger. I am a twenty-year resident of Alexandria and I have run two businesses in the city; as Publisher of the Alexandria Guide Magazine and as a freelance photojournalist.

I am on the City's Waterfront Committee and have been a long time sailor.

In 2004 my wife and I made a passage on our sailboat down the Intracoastal Waterway from the Chesapeake Bay to Savannah, Georgia. That trip afforded us the opportunity to see the way in which other metropolitan areas incorporated the waterfront into their city plan.

Cities and towns along the way had made water traffic welcome and included in the plan for the waterfront. From Oriental (NC) to Beaufort (NC) to Charleston (NC) to Georgetown (SC) and beyond the planners considered seriously the inclusion of the boating community.

All of the communities had easy access to the various retail locations within walking distance of the marinas.

Alexandria has a rich marine history that can provide a solid foundation for the future development of the current waterfront. There is approximately 1/2 mile of current commercial waterfront space that can be utilized to enhance and balance economic development with shore-based access.

The members of the EDAW team have the opportunity and challenge of incorporating the rich history and the future development into a vibrant and vital economic engine for the City of Alexandria; a waterfront that will attract visitors and residents from both the landside and the waterside.

Thank you for affording me this time to address my fellow citizens on this important issue.

Michael Geissinger
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